Report of the Khosla Committee.

* 143 *Q*.—Sri VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras State Government have received a copy of the report either provisional or final of the Technical Committee of the Planning Commission headed by Khosla; and

(*b*) if so, whether it or a summary of its contents will be placed on the table?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—"The question is the same as the previous one. I have already answered it."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, I am not asking for parts of the reports to be given out. I am asking whether the report was declared by the Technical Committee to be a tentative or an interim one, whether the Hon. the Public Works Minister will be able to say whether he has seen the title page at least, if he has not studied the report, and whether he can give us also the date of receipt of the report. I have asked this question three times. I want to know when this Government received the report."

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"All that is part of the same matter. It is a confidential paper, the date, signature, name, title, matter, paragraphs, marginal notes, all included."

Sri G. LATCHANNA:—"May I know whether this Government have given any opinion on that interim or tentative report?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"No, Sir."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am asking whether the Hon. the Minister for Public Works has seen the report in newspapers of the proceedings in Parliament where the Central Minister in charge of the subject stated that the report was forwarded to this Government in September. May I know whether the Hon. the Minister for Public Works will be able to say on what date the report was received here? It is not part of what the Chief Minister has already stated." 10-40 a.m.

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"With the permission of the Hon. the Minister for Public Works, I wish to say that we cannot go by newspaper reports of what answer was given and what exactly the hon. Member who put the question meant, when he spoke of the 'report.' What the Hon. the Minister for Public Works gave as answer just now may be remembered. He said, 'I have seen the report.' He meant the paper called so by the questioner. There is nothing more which we can draw from it, and I do not think that we can answer questions relating to newspaper reports."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI:—"In view of the fact that this report concerns projects affecting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in this State, will the Government consider it

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desirable to write to the Planning Commission to see that the public of this State are taken into confidence with regard to the report and to publish the report immediately for discussion?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Apart from the number of lives involved and the guardians thereof, I wish to inform the hon. Member that I have already enquired of the Planning Commission whether they would allow us to publish it and place it on the table of the House, but they replied that it should be still kept confidential. If hon. Members do not agree with that decision, they are entitled to move their comrades and friends in Parliament to ask the Planning Commission to take necessary action." (Cheers.)

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" ఒక రిపోర్టు వచ్చిందని ముందు చెప్పి, తరువాత అది రిపోర్టు కాదని చెప్పుతున్నారు. అంటే ఆ వచ్చినటువంటి కాగితాలను చదువకుండానే వాటిని వెనుకకు పంపించడం ఈ ప్రభుత్వముయొక్క పాలిసీయా, లేక వచ్చిన కాగితాలను చదివి అంటే దానిమీద తమ అభిప్రాయాలను చెప్పకుండానే పంపించడం వారిపద్ధతియా లేకపోతే వచ్చినదాన్ని దాచివుంచి, ఏమి జరిగిందో ప్రజలకు తెలుపక ప్రజలలో కలతలు రేకెత్తించడమే వారి ఉద్దేశ్యమా అని అడుగుచున్నాను."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Mr. Nagi Reddi is conversant with democratic practice in general. But he does not seem to know what is necessary to be done in this particular case which involves technical examination. When any paper is received, which is called a technical paper or a paper on technical subjects calling for opinion, it must first be seen by the technical people here. There is no question of the insinuation that was made being at all correct, namely, that the policy of this Government is to return papers without studying them."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall allow only one more question."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I submit to you, Sir, that this is a very important matter? It is because it is important, I requested you yesterday to have it taken up at the beginning to-day so that we might have some time."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The matter is confidential. What is going on now is mere cross-examination and not questions put for eliciting information."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I make a submission to the Chair? I have strictly followed the Hon. the Chief Minister when he said that the report was confidential and that, therefore, he was unable to give information. I am not pursuing that point. I am only asking for the date on which this Government received the report. How can that be confidential?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Please do not shout. This is fast approaching the third degree method."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister, who has intervened now, whether he is aware that the

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Hon. the Minister for Public Works said on October 21—although he originally had denied the fact—that he did receive the report? I am not asking any particular question of a confidential nature. Did the Planning Commission tell this Government that the date on which this Government received the report also should be treated as confidential? I want to know the date; the public are anxious to know something about all this. There is no use of side-tracking the issue when the Central Government said that they had sent the report."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"There is no question of side-tracking on our part. When a paper is marked confidential, all matters relating to it must be treated as confidential. I have already said, if hon. Members are very particular as to the date when it was received or it was posted, even that question should be referred to the Minister in charge at Delhi and not here."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"In view of the fact that the Minister has said that the report was forwarded in September, what is the objection of this Government to giving the date of its actual receipt here? Is the date of receipt also confidential?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I am bound by the direction given to me along with the posting of the paper. I am bound to do in courtesy as well as in administrative propriety what I have been asked by them to do. If the hon. Member has got an answer from the Minister in Delhi, he should be satisfied with that."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH:—"ఈ ప్రశ్న వేసిన నాకు అవకాశము ఇవ్వలేదండి."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed enough time for this question. I cannot allow every hon. Member to put supplementary questions in a House where we have 375 Members."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH —"On a point of order, Sir, నేను ప్రశ్న వేసేప్పుడు, నాకే అవకాశమివ్వకుండా ఉండడం అన్యాయమండి."

MR. SPEAKER:—"No point of order now. Next question."

Minimum wages for agricultural labourers.

* 148 *Q.*—SRI P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are considering the question of fixing minimum wages to agricultural labourers; and

(*b*) if so, the present stage of the matter?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"(*a*) Yes, Sir.

"(*b*) A special enquiry was conducted in the low wage areas of the State. The results of the enquiry are under examination. Orders will be issued after the examination is over."